

WOMEN EMPLOYED

111 N. WABASH AVENUE • SUITE 1300 • CHICAGO, IL 60602-2002
VOICE 312.782.3902 • FAX 312.782.5249

July 25, 2001

The Honorable John Dingell
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

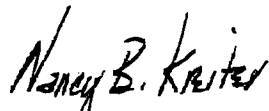
Dear Representative Dingell:

Women Employed strongly supports the "FamilyCare Act of 2001." This critical legislation will help many uninsured women and their families receive essential health care services through Medicaid and CHIP. By helping to move millions of low-income Americans out of the ranks of the uninsured, this legislation will be an important step forward in promoting women's health.

It is a grave reality that women's access to health care services is seriously compromised by inadequate health insurance coverage. States are not doing enough to extend health insurance to more of their residents and outreach efforts have been minimal. Nationwide, approximately 14 percent of women are uninsured and many low-income women leaving welfare are not even aware that they may still be Medicaid-eligible. When enacted, the "FamilyCare Act of 2001" would address these problems and a host of others by providing new federal funding, incentives, and the authority for states to expand health insurance coverage to parents of children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. The other provisions in the bill – including an extension of Medicaid coverage to pregnant legal immigrants and a simplified application process for Medicaid and CHIP – would also make vital health care services far more accessible for women and their families.

By making more women eligible for Medicaid and CHIP, the "FamilyCare Act" will give these women access to a comprehensive set of health care services. The enactment of the "FamilyCare Act" is an important step in promoting women's health. We look forward to working with you on getting this critical piece of women's health legislation enacted.

Sincerely,



Nancy B. Kreiter
Research Director
Women Employed